

Town of Menomonie

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 at 6:00pm

Frank called the Monthly Meeting to Order at 6:00 pm

All members present: Frank Bammert, Scott Barnhart, Kent Jackson, Nancy Ponto and Charisse Sutliff

Minutes

- Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on June 8th were reviewed. Scott noted one change in the notes, a correction of month from July to June in regards to the Board of Review date.
- Scott made a motion to approve the minutes with noted correction, Kent 2nd Carried.

Public

- Tom Walsh addressed the Board with a written proposal to become a Sanctuary Township for Undocumented Immigrants from Central and South America. As a Sanctuary Township we would provide a safe place for undocumented people to live and work, providing a workforce to our agricultural community who, at present can't find enough workers to keep their farms operating. In addition, the people could provide a workforce to unfilled positions advertised in manufacturing, services and retail businesses.
- Frank thanked Tom for his proposal. He asked if the Board had any questions in regards to this request. None were asked.

Sanctuary Firearms Discussion - Resolution

- Last month the Town was presented a Second Amendment Protection Resolution and asked to sign it.
- Copies were shared of a Memorandum drafted by John R Behling from Weld Riley, the townships attorney. We also had received letters/emails from constituents asking that we do not sign it without further discussions.
- Marty Higamen addressed all present and stated that she didn't feel it was appropriate for a local township to make a discussion on this, it wasn't the appropriate government body to approve. She stated we are a diverse community where many may agree or disagree and there should be more information available to all before such a resolution would be signed. She did state that she does not necessarily agree or disagree with this topic, but feels it needs to be tabled for future discussions.
- Steve Christianson was present and stated he lived in the City of Menomonie. He said he has signed the petition. He said my heart is in this. It is a freedom we already have. By supporting it we are only sending a message to our Sherriff that we support him and the protection of our 2nd Amendment. He said, I believe the 2nd Amendment keeps our country safe and helps strengthen our freedom. He strongly suggested that the Board enforces it.
- Cecelia Cooper addressed the Board and said forces are out there to limit our rights. Currently in Congress they are passed a Bill HR127. It calls for a data base of all registered gun owners that would be public record. Not only does it publicly list who and what kind of gun but also requires you to disclose where you keep it. She is very concerned of anyone not just knowing what kind of guns she may have but also where she keeps them. HR127 is in the House of Representatives under consideration. She said by us signing this resolution we send a clear picture to our Reps that we support and uphold our 2nd Amendment rights.

- Frank ended all comments and stated that the attorney memorandum along with correspondence from members of the township has been shared. He stated that the Wisconsin Towns Association would have this topic on their Agenda and he planned on attending their next meeting. He suggested to the Board that we Table this topic for further review.
- Kent agreed. He stated that he has done some research but doesn't understand what impact of us signing this resolution would really do other than cause division in the township. He said we need to understand what liabilities we would have in showing support one way or the other. He too, was interested in what the Towns Association would be presenting on the topic.
- Scott stated that he agrees with Kent and said at this point I am not prepared to make a decision.
- Frank stated that yesterday the Governor had vetoed it. It was at State level and in limbo at this time.
- Betsy Wolbert said she had an email from Sherriff Bygd that said he appreciated the support. Frank asked that she forward it to us.
- Frank made a motion to table this for further discussion and he would determine if it is to be put back on a future agenda. Kent 2nd, Carried.

Employee/Chairman Report

- Frank said he had to sign for a holding tank. He also used Cody's help to check out completed Driveways to sign off on the permits after final inspection.
- The work completed on the Grader got spendy, Fabik's charges were a little over \$6000. They did work on the clutch and made changes in the transmission.
- 390th street, Rudiger Road bridge is under rehabilitation Federal grant. The County engineer will send us a cost estimate. The deck and guard rails need to be replaced. The bridge deck is deteriorating rapidly. It will be seal coated the end of August.
- All Asphalt on the roads will be completed within the next month.
- Cody was present, he said after storms had rolled through they clean up was done.
- Cody thought they were about half through the grader patching material, around \$10,500.
- They have been mowing down wild parsnip
- 490th Street was graveled and pulverized
- Gravel was brought in on the Park Rd.
- Gravel and blacktop were put under the Iron dumpster at the site.
- The brush pile was burned at the site.
- Hydraulic leak was fixed on the 6410

24/7 Telcom Payment

- We paid half of the commitment to 24/7 Telcom of \$2500 for the Irvington West project. The BB project still has \$2500 due. We will ask 24/7 to be present at our next meeting to provide an update on the ARPA funds request. We did submit out grant and received half of the funding available at this time.

Driveway Permits

- No new requests

Drop off Site Update

- Kent provided his spread sheet with year-to-date expenses. June was a lower month coming in at \$9883.12, putting the per household projection expense at \$146.37.

- Frank had a Barron County Waste to Energy and Recycling Facility flyer. They take many items we cannot, or larger quantities. He plans to provide this information in the next newsletter.
- We still need an asphalt estimate done for the black top needed.

Cemetery Update

- Three new lots were sold at \$300 each. They were sold to Linda and Michael Beldon and Karen Scheel. Notarized Cemetery Deeds were sent to each. Frank had gone out and determined what/where the available lots were.

Junk Complaint

- An Ordinance Violation, Junk complaint was called in on the property of William and Jerene Suckow residing at E3714 650th Avenue.
- Kent inspected the said property and noticed numerous junk motor vehicles and other junk items. A letter will be sent along with a copy of the ordinance, asking for a clean-up. They will have 30 days to comply. A follow up will be conducted and fines sent if necessary.

Plan Commission Update

- We will be looking for two new members to the committee. Marty and Mike have both resigned.
- Three letters were sent to invite applicants, so far, no takers. We will promote it in the July Newsletter.

July Newsletter

- Frank shared a rough draft of the Newsletter, words from the Chariman. A few corrections were noted. Frank will be sending the newsletter to the printer to mail out by the end of the month.
- Scott made a motion to send out the newsletter, Kent 2nd Carried.

Clerk Report

- We were sent a 2020 Housing Report. The information was not available at our Annual Meeting.
- The Town of Menomonie had 6 new houses in 2020.

Miscellaneous

- It was discussed how to increase our tax base. Discussion was made about full acre zoning requirements. Sanitary systems don't support ½ acre lots.
- We are hopeful that adding fiber optics will increase the new builds in the area.

Board Reports

- We have had questions on allowance of chickens. Chickens are covered under Dunn County Zoning. They are not allowed unless an exception request is approved by county zoning. In which case they do limit the number of chickens and have a rule against roosters.
- Kent will be on vacation the second Tuesday of August. He requested the Board meeting to be held on August 3rd rather than the 10th. All other members were available. Our next meeting will be on August 3rd.

Vouchers

- Vouchers were reviewed. Scott made a motion to approve the vouchers #20133-20171 Kent 2nd Carried.

Adjourn

- Scott made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm Kent 2nd Carried.

